

(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly amend claims 1 and 13 as follows. A detailed listing of all the pending or past claims is provided.

1. (Currently Amended) A developer comprising a toner particle which comprises a binder resin and a colorant, an inorganic fine particle, and a conductive fine particle,

wherein a volume average particle diameter D_a of the conductive fine particle and a number average primary particle diameter D_b of the inorganic fine particle satisfy the following expression (1):

$$D_a \geq 10D_b$$

(1),

a rate of liberation “a” of the conductive fine particle from the toner particle is ~~40 to 95%~~ 75 to 88% and a rate of liberation “b” of the inorganic fine particle from the toner particle is 0.80 to 1.90 % and when a wettability of the developer with respect to a methanol/water mixed solvent is measured by using, as an index of the wettability, a transmissivity of light having a wavelength of 780 nm through the mixed solvent, a methanol concentration in the mixed solvent at the transmissivity of 80% is in a range of 35 to 80% by volume, wherein the conductive fine particle comprises ~~at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide and tin oxide~~ and the inorganic fine particle comprises dry silica treated with silicone oil ~~at least one compound selected from the group consisting of silica, titanium oxide, and alumina.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein when a wettability of the developer with respect to a methanol/water mixed solvent is measured by using, as an index of the wettability, a transmissivity of light having a wavelength of 780 nm through the mixed solvent, a methanol concentration in the mixed solvent at the transmissivity of 10% is in a range of 40 to 85% by volume.

4. (Previously Presented) The developer according to claim 1, wherein when a wettability of the developer with respect to a methanol/water mixed solvent is measured by using, as an index of the wettability, a transmissivity of light having a wavelength of 780 nm through the mixed solvent, a methanol concentration in the mixed solvent at the transmissivity of 80% (represented by C80) and the methanol concentration at the transmissivity of 10% (represented by C10) satisfy the following expression (2):

$$0 < C10 - C80 \leq 10 \quad (2).$$

5. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein the conductive fine particle exists as an aggregate and has a volume average particle diameter Da of 0.1 to 4 μm .

6. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the conductive fine particle is subjected to a hydrophobic treatment using at least one

hydrophobic agent selected from the group consisting of a silicone varnish, modified silicone varnishes, a silicone oil, modified silicone oils, a silane compound, and a silane coupling agent.

7. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein a content of the conductive fine particle is 0.1 to 5.0% by mass with respect to the total mass of the developer.

8. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein the conductive fine particle has a resistivity of $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ or less.

9. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein the conductive fine particle has a resistivity of $10^6 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ or less.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein a content of the inorganic fine particle is 0.1 to 3.0% by mass with respect to the total mass of the developer.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The developer according to claim 12, wherein the inorganic fine particle is ~~at least~~ further treated with a silane compound ~~and the silicone oil~~.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein a number average primary particle diameter D_b of the inorganic fine particle is 4 to 80 nm.

16. (Original) The developer according to claim 1, wherein a weight average particle diameter of the developer is 3 μm or more and 12 μm or less.

17. (Original) A developer according to claim 1, wherein the developer is produced by adding and mixing the inorganic fine particle to the toner particle and then adding the conductive fine particle thereto.